

Mr. Porter's Discourse
BEFORE THE HUMANITARIAN SOCIETY.





DISCOURSE

DELIVERED BEFORE THE

HUMANE SOCIETY

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS,

AT THEIR

SEMIANNUAL MEETING,

JUNE 8, 1802.

BY ELIPHALET PORTER,

PASTOR OF THE FIRST CHURCH IN BOSTON.

BOSTON;

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At a Semi-annual Meeting of the HUMANE SOCIETY,

June 8th, 1802,

VOTED that the Honorable Robert Treat Paine and Oliver Wendel, Esq's. Rev. Doct. Morfe, Edward Gray, Esq. and the Rev. Mr. Emerson, be a Committee to wait upon the Rev. Mr. Eliphalet Porter, and to return him the thanks of this Society for his elegant and ingenious discourse delivered before the Humane Society this day, and to request of him a Copy for the Pres.

An Extract from the Minutes of said Society,

JOHN AVERY Rec'g. Sec'y.

TO

THE PRESIDENT,

THE OTHER OFFICERS,

AND THE MEMBERS OF THE

HUMANE SOCIETY

OF MASSACHUSETTS,

THE FOLLOWING DISCOURSE IS RESPECTFULLY

SUBMITTED BY

THE AUTHOR

DISCOURSE.

TO PRESERVE HUMAN LIFE, AND ALLEVIATE ITS MISERIES — such is the design of this institution; a design truly benevolent in its origin, and useful in its effects. So perfectly does it coincide with the spirit and commands of that religion whose blessed author came not to condemn men's lives, but to save them; not to render mere watchmen, but to improve, the condition of man, that I do not hesitate to announce the occasion on which we are assembled, as my text; and the excellent nature of your association, in connection with the appointment, with which you have been pleased to honor me, as the authority by which I am emboldened to address you.

I hope, however, to be indulged in expressing my regret, that the duty, to which you have invited me, was not assigned to some other person; to one who would have felt equally reluctant to refuse your request, and would have been equally qualified to promote your benevolent views; to one whose talents and celebrity would have attracted, if not crowded assembly, yet a sufficient number to fill, in a becoming manner, the vacant seats; to one, too, whose extensive science, or

whose professional studies and experience, would have enabled him to discuss, with advantage, some medical, or physiological subject connected with the principal object of your institution.

Were your annual discourses directed more generally, if not universally, as was originally intended, to the discussion of such subjects, advantages would probably result from the regulation. It would excite attention to these topics, encourage enquiry and experiment, and perhaps, lead to useful discoveries. It would contribute to a pleasing and profitable variety in public addresses, which our societies formed for humane and benevolent purposes, so frequently demand, by bringing into exercise that diversity of gifts bestowed on different professions, for the benefit of all. That there has been so frequent a departure from your original design is more to be regretted, in consideration of the many respectable characters, belonging to the medical faculty in this metropolis, and other parts of the commonwealth, whose professional skill and accomplishments, whose learning and eloquence might be employed, on this occasion, with so much advantage to the cause of humanity, as well as honour to themselves.

Moral and religious considerations to excite us to duty seem to be less wanting, in regard to the main object of your institution, than physical knowledge to direct our exertions, and increase the prospect of success. The former, however, may not be unutil, and will alone be expected, on the present occasion.

The benevolent associations and public charities,

which, it has been observed, do not appear to have had an existence before the commencement of the christian æra, but which, since that period, and especially in modern times, have been so greatly multiplied, furnish a very interesting and important subject of contemplation. Their relation to christianity is worthy of particular attention. This relation gives a sanction to these institutions; and at the same time, by a reciprocal influence, reflects credit and lustre on the christian religion. The institutions we are considering, bear an honourable testimony to the truth, efficacy, and divine nature of this religion, under whose benign influence and culture, they have sprung up, in almost every christian soil, and borne their precious fruits.

Around the fountain of affliction and cruelty, which have been produced by the lusts and passions of men, and melted to our stinging view, the eye rests on these benevolent institutions, with peculiar complacence and delight. They evince, that there is humanity, that there is justice on the earth; humanity beyond what heathenism with an inquiry could boast; and faith, which, if it has not universally purified the hearts of men, and overcome the world, is evidently working by love.

In evidence of this relation, which charitable societies and benevolent orders to christianity, it would not, perhaps be difficult to prove. It could be satisfactorily illustrated and proved, to illustrate the christian church is the parent of all her good. Her primitive examples as well as doctrine were glorious. From the beginning collections were made in her assemblies, for the

relief of the necessitous ; and persons appointed for the purpose of overseeing and conducting the charitable ministrations. These practices were maintained in the succeeding ages of christianity, and still exist in our churches.

The great author of our faith was, above all others, a teacher of benevolence, and a pattern of good works. The duty of mankind to love one another was taught and enforced by him, in language so explicit, in a sense so enlarged and comprehensive, in a degree so pure and sublime ; by considerations so tender and affecting, by the promise of such great and glorious rewards, and, in a word, in a manner so superior to that of any other instructor, or fulfller of religion and morals, that had before appeared in the world, that it was entitled to the character of a new commandment : and obedience to it became the distinctive badge of the christian fraternity. To bear one another's burdens is to fulfil the law of CHRIST.

Not only is the general aim of lessening the miseries, and increasing the happiness of mankind in perfect unison with the spirit and commands of christianity, but the particular objects, to which charitable and humane associations have directed their attention, seem to be suggested and countenanced by some express passage in the sayings, or life, of that teacher, who spoke as never man spoke, and whose character it eminently was, " that he went about doing good."

Our societies instituted for the purpose of promoting religious knowledge, and extending the light of christ-

tianity to those who sit in darkness, and in the region of the shadow of death? The son of God appeared on earth, that he might be the light of the world; and gave it in command to his disciples, to publish the gospel to every nation and kindred, and people and tongue.

Is legal provision almost every where made for the support of the poor and helpless? and are there many voluntary associations formed, and funds established by private individuals for the same purpose? You need not be informed who has pre-eminently encouraged these works of benevolence and mercy. You know who it was that had compassion on the hungry multitude, and would not suffer them to depart till they were filled, lest they should faint by the way. You know by whom it was declared, that to feed the hungry, to give the thirsty drink, and to cloathe the naked, are deeds of charity, which, if done unto the least of his brethren, will be considered as done unto himself.

Have hospitals, infirmaries, and dispensaries been founded for the reception, or relief, of the maimed, the sick and infirm? They might be expected in countries that profess the religion of JESUS CHRIST, whose benevolence and power were so illustriously displayed in giving sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, speech to the dumb, and in healing all manner of diseases. Institutions, likewise, which have for their object such as are lunatic and disordered in mind, cannot be displeasing to him, who so often compassionated this unhappy description of men. They must be highly approved by him in whom the maniacs, rushing frantic from

the midst of the tombs, found a friend and benefactor, who restored them to the light and comforts of reason, and to a capacity for those of virtue and religion.

Establiments designed to facilitate the recovery of those, who, by the arts of seduction, and solicitations of vice, have been deprived of their innocence, reputation and peace, display a charity congenial with his, who came, not to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.

Well regulated asylums, or institutions for the protection, support and virtuous education of orphan children, and such as are thrown friendless on the world, would command our approbation, although they had not received a sanction from the more than parental tenderness, manifested for little children by the favour of the world. Without inquiring whether they were the fruits of virtuous love, or criminal indulgence, he knew *their* innocence, and their value. He took them in his arms, and blessed them ; and said, “ Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not ; for of such is the kingdom of heaven.”

They who are associated for the purpose of employing their combined efforts to prevent the destruction or alleviate the distress, occasioned by wasting fires, or other desolating judgments, are undoubtedly acting in the spirit of that benevolence and compassion, which once wept over the city of Jerusalem, at the affecting prospect of the conflagration and ruin to which it was destined ; saying, “ Oh that thou hadst known, in this

thy day, the things that belong to thy peace ; but now they are hidden from thine eyes."

In fine, are there humane societies whose object is to restore, in every possible case, the suspended animation of human beings, and rescue them from an untimely grave ? Is such the aim of your association ? Pursue the godlike design. You are treading in the steps of him, who, sympathizing with the afflicted family at Bethany, where death had seemingly gained a lasting triumph over Lazarus, directed his way thither, with this resolution in his heart, and on his tongue, "I go that I may awake him out of sleep."

Such is the obvious affinity between charitable institutions and designs, and our holy religion. Such the countenance they receive from the precepts and example of its glorious founder. But among the various institutions to which we have referred, or which have had existence, there is none, perhaps, more unexceptionable and godlike, than those which have for their object the resuscitation of the apparently dead ; the restoring to their families, to their friends, to the community, and to a capacity for the enjoyments and duties of life, those who, without some friendly assistance, must have slept the sleep of death. Objections, which may be thought to have some weight, as they apply to other charities, have no existence in relation to this.

Its object cannot be deemed uninteresting, or of little importance. It aims to prevent what all dread, and to preserve what all love. Light is sweet, and a pleasant thing it is for the eyes to behold the sun. Life, indeed,

has its troubles, but it has its enjoyments too ; and the last are more than the first. The dread of dissolution, so common to mankind, is not a principle arbitrarily implanted in the human breast by some superior malignant power, who would condemn us to an useless and wretched state of existence, and has taken this method to prevent our untimely escape. Our attachment to life is the effect of the divine wisdom and goodness. It is generated in our minds by the frequent recurrence of agreeable prospects, and actual enjoyments in life. This is not a world where we are hedged about with nothing but briars and thorns. Our path is strown with many lovely flowers, and pleasant fruits, which, gathered with care, and used with discretion, will give embellishment and delight to the scene.

All our senses, though often the sources of pain, are still more frequently the inlets of pleasure. Much enjoyment is also derived from society and conversation with our fellow men, and especially from daily familiar intercourse with intimate friends and connexions.

The capacity of the most to render themselves useful to society, or at least to be comforts and blessings to their kindred and friends, is another consideration which heightens the value of human life, and the benevolence of every effort for its preservation. But that which gives to the present life its greatest importance, and renders a prevention of its sudden and premature close most desirable, is its relation to a future state of existence. Invaluable is the opportunity, which this life affords, of acquiring, by a proper course of disci-

pline and conduct, those dispositions and habits of piety and virtue, which are the necessary preparatives for the heavenly world.

As the object of humane societies cannot be thought unimportant, so neither is it subject to the reproach of being partial. Their charity has a like respect to persons of all religious sects, and of all political parties. It excludes none of either sex, or of any age, rank, profession, employment, language, or condition, who may need the resuscitating process; or whose signal exertions in the cause of humanity may entitle them to a reward. In imitation of the mercy of that Being, who causes the sun to rise on the evil and on the good, it would restore all, without distinction of characters, who are sunk in the shades of apparent death, to the cheering light of heaven. Gladly would it prolong to the worthless the space for repentance; and to the virtuous the power of doing good.

Jealousy itself cannot suspect institutions like this of being friendly to vice. In particular, whatever the selfish, who are so fruitful in pleas for withholding their bounty and aid, may surmise of some other benevolent associations, there can be no pretence, that societies for restoring suspended animation have a tendency to promote sloth and inaction. Cautious avarice may, for once, lay aside his eternal dread of giving encouragement to the idle, and come and present his offering on this altar of charity, without fear.

The charge of vanity, and a desire of being seen of men, or of having some selfish design, to which persons

connected with charitable societies and undertakings, have always been subject from the censorious, will give but little uneasiness to those who are conscious of the rectitude of their views. But what may appear vanity to the uncandid and superficial observer, is often viewed in a different light by others. The wise know how to distinguish between a mean ostentation and useful publicity; between a parade, which can answer no other purpose than gratifying the vain glory of individuals, and that attraction of public notice, which may be essential to the success of benevolent institutions.

The anniversaries, the processions, the public appearances and discourses of societies, instituted for benevolent and useful purposes, are not so vain and trifling as some may be ready to imagine. They are public acknowledgements and memorials of our obligations to be useful to our fellow men. They are regular invitations and excitements to the duties of humanity.

In concerning themselves with the motives, by which persons are prompted to benevolent and useful actions, some, perhaps, may need the caution, to take heed, lest, in their attempts to gather up the tares, they root up the wheat also with them. Those motives, indeed, for which some feel, or affect, such a disapprobation, though not of the noblest kind, are in a degree useful and laudable. They produce beneficial effects in society; and are the steps, or means, by which we may be aided in our ascent to the heights of benevolence and virtue.

Instead of soliciting the bestowment of pecuniary assistance, on this occasion, it is the more pleasing duty of the speaker to notice the past bounty of the members of this society, and of other persons, which has induced the suspension of the annual public collection: and to acknowledge the great readiness and liberality with which the inhabitants of this metropolis have ever contributed to benevolent and useful purposes, and for which they have been so long and so justly distinguished.

An increase of knowledge on various subjects that relate to the principal object of your institution, is of greater importance than an increase of funds. We want the motives and inclination to save our fellowmen from untimely death less, than the knowledge and power to effect it. The important researches, experiments, and discoveries, which have been already made, do honour to the ingenuity and benevolence of their authors. They have been the means of preserving the lives of thousands, who otherwise would have been prematurely consigned to the grave. This should encourage the continuance of inquiry and research, lead to the repetition and multiplication of experiments, and animate the hope of new discoveries.

But notwithstanding all the discoveries that have been made, or that can be expected, death will triumph. The ravages he has been permitted to make on your society, since the last anniversary, are too remarkable and affecting not to excite our notice, and renew our

grief, on this occasion. Had your skill and power to have been proportionate to the benevolence of your institution, or *their* worth, a PHILLIPS, a LOWELL, a MINOT had not died. While here, they “seemed to be pillars,” imparting strength, order and beauty to the state, and the various institutions with which they were connected. But it hath pleased the Almighty Ruler, that they should be removed from earth, and, as we trust, “made pillars in that temple from which they shall go no more out.” May we be excited to imitate the virtues of the departed, and, in respect to us, they will not have died in vain.

Let the present occasion admonish us of our obligations to be faithful and persevering, in our endeavours to promote the valuable objects of the benevolent associations, of which we may be members, or which we may have it in our power to serve. Such institutions are worthy of times enlightened and improved by the Christian dispensation. They reflect honour on those, by whom they are founded, and from whom they receive support. They are proud monuments of the wisdom, benevolence, and improvement of mankind, before which the huge pyramids of antiquity are reduced to a diminutive size, and colossal statues are prostrated on the ground.

APPENDIX.

THE following Letter, from a Gentleman who wishes his name may be concealed, was laid before the Trustees at their Meeting July 6, 1801.

AUGUSTA, JUNE 10, 1801.

SIR,

I AM much surpris'd, to find that no account of a late remarkable and magnanimous preservation of life, had been transmitted to your Society.

About the middle of April last, Mr. Joseph North Jun. (son of the Hon. Joseph North Esq. of Augusta) and Mr. Amos Bond, went in a small boat to secure a quantity of timber, which had lodged against the centre pier of Kennebec bridge. At this time the freshets were unusually high, and of course the current of the river exceedingly rapid. They had just reached the pier, when by a slight indiscretion in the management of the boat, it suddenly upset. Mr. North, finding the broadside of the boat to the current, and in that manner turning over and carrying Bond under, with great presence of mind and a wonderful exertion of strength, leaped upon the bottom of the boat and carried Mr. Bond with him, who in all probability would have been instantly drawn under the boat, by the force of the current. In this situation, the boat began to sink; and Mr. Bond, who is said to have entirely lost his senses, was swept into the stream. Mr. North, more enured to dangers of this nature than his companion, might have placed himself in a state of perfect security, by taking refuge upon the logs and timber about the pier of the bridge. But, with a soul superior to all considerations of personal safety, he dove into the rapid and merciless current, seized Mr. Bond who had then been carried under it, and after being driven and whirled in the most awful manner for a considerable distance under

water, brought him up. Mr. Bond was now not only unable to help himself, but is represented as constantly and violently struggling with his preserver, as they were carried down the tremendous current. But Mr. North, with great composure, took Mr. Bond under his left arm, and swam with him down the river, occasionally turning and facing the current, as it were in contempt of its dangers, to get breath and relieve himself from the struggles of his almost expiring friend.

In this dreadful situation, Mr. North, by the most astonishing exertions and fortitude, persevered in his humane and heroic resolution to save the life of Mr. Bond, till they were carried seventy rods down the river. Finding his strength far exhausted, he for a moment thought of leaving Bond to shift for himself, and accordingly shook him off his arm; but perceiving him sinking and exposed to certain death, he returned to him again at the imminent peril of his own life, took him under his arm as before, and kept him above water until assistance was obtained from the shore.

A struggle so long and hazardous, had nearly deprived Mr. North of his remaining strength; but he never abandoned Mr. Bond for an instant until he saw the boat from the shore, so near them, that his preservation was rendered certain. He then left him, in order to preserve his own life; and Mr. Bond was taken up just as he was sinking, in a state of total insensibility; and after the humane and successful exertions of the neighbors to recover him, was restored to the embraces of his parents and friends.

To complete the triumph of benevolence and humanity, upon this occasion, Mr. North refused the assistance of his anxious friends in the boats, insisting upon their bestowing all their exertions to save Mr. Bond; and he accordingly, by an exertion of the last ounce of his strength, swam unassisted to the shore.

If you are acquainted, Sir, with the rapidity and dangers of the Kennebec in the time of the freshets, more especially with the effects, which a mighty pressure of water against the pier of a bridge in the centre of this river, must produce, you will readily

perceive the prodigious hazard of the enterprize which Mr. North engaged in, for the benevolent purpose above related ; and also, that Mr. North, has a claim to a liberal share of those honors of your Society, which you undoubtedly have in reserve for the brave and the humane.

With sincere wishes for the success of your laudable and excellent institution, I am your obedient servant,

Dr. AARON DEXTER,

Corresponding Sec'y. of the Humane Society.

UPON reading the foregoing Letter, it was voted, That the Rev. Dr. Parker and the Corresponding Secretary be desired to make further enquiry into the facts stated in the above Communication, and to report at some future Meeting.

Said Committee wrote to Major Samuel Howard of Augusta, requesting him to furnish them with a true state of the facts referred to the Letter communicated to the Trustees July 6, and at the Meeting of the Trustees held Oct. 5, reported the following Letter from Maj. Howard.

AUGUSTA, SEPTEMBER 10, 1801.

GENTLEMEN,

AS some excuse for not having answered your letter of the 17th July last, before this time, I beg leave to observe, that I considered that a particular and accurate statement in reply was expected ; and not possessing sufficient information myself, was obliged to have recourse to the best authority the nature of the case afforded. The person (Mr. NORTH himself) best able to furnish the greatest part of a state of facts, having been absent most of the time since the receipt of your letter, has been the cause of so long delay.

In order to comply with your wishes, it may be necessary to give a partial description of that part of the *Kennebeck Bridge* which is called the *Pier*. This Pier stands in the middle of the

river, about two hundred feet distant from either shore, is forty feet square, connected with which, and projecting by the Pier about eighteen inches on each side, and extending up the river about sixty feet, is that part of the Pier, which, from its form, is called the *Heater*, terminating in a point, covered with iron. On the point of this heater were collected a quantity of masts, mill-logs, timber, rubbish, &c. whose ends projected in every direction, and were confined to that place by the great pressure of the water which passed the Pier with astonishing force and rapidity—the depth of the water being about twenty-five feet, and its velocity not less than ten miles per hour.

On the 17th day of April last, Mr. Joseph North, jun. and Mr. Amos Bond, in a small canoe, went on to the collection of masts, logs, &c. above mentioned, for the purpose of throwing off the mill-logs, which belonged to them; but having forgot to carry an axe with them, they returned to the shore, obtained one, and then set off again for the Pier; but owing to some mismanagement on the part of Bond, who guided the canoe, it struck sideways against the end of a tree which projected partly up the river, and was instantly overturned, so far that its bottom lay up the river directly against the current, the force of which kept the canoe in that position, and they were both thrown out. In this situation, Mr. North, by great exertion, succeeded in getting partly on to the canoe, and taking hold of Bond, endeavoured to help him on also, or at least hold him there, until assistance should arrive: but the water rushing over the canoe with incredible force, frustrated this attempt, and they were both swept off, and almost instantly carried under by the whirlpool occasioned by the coving, or projection of the heater where it joins the Pier: they rose, however, before they had passed the Pier, (forty feet) and were both carried into its eddy, where the motion of the water was alarmingly increased, rushing with a very loud noise, and the greatest violence, in almost every direction, and forming many very dangerous whirlpools. Mr. North now spoke to Bond, told

him not to be frightened, for assistance would soon come to them, and swam to him, and took hold of him by the cape or shoulder of his coat with one hand, and swam with him with the other and his feet, 'till he was extremely fatigued, and Bond making some efforts to take hold of him, he was obliged to let him go, but still kept near and encouraged him. Being an excellent swimmer, he soon rested himself, and returned and took hold of Bond again, and swam with him 'till he got him out of the eddy, still kept encouraging him, and advised him to try to swim, telling him to extend his arms, and endeavour to help himself: in making the attempt, Bond threw the water with so much violence and profusion into Mr. North's face, that he almost suffocated him, and he was again obliged to leave him; after recovering himself he returned, and again took hold and swam with him, until fatigue, and the water which Bond continued to throw in his face, forced him a third time to leave him to ~~rescue~~ in this manner he afforded him every assistance in his power, by returning to him at less than four or five times, and he believes six. At length seeing a canoe coming to their aid, and being excessively fatigued, he let him go, but still kept near him, encouraging him to try to swim, and telling him a canoe was coming to their relief. On the approach of the canoe (which a Mr. Elias Craig and a Mr. Bolton went off in) he requested them to leave him, for he could take care of himself, and go, as fast as they possibly could, to Bond, who was now gradually sinking. When the canoe came to him, he was so far under water that Mr. Craig was but just able, by putting down his arm, to reach his hat, which he seized hold of, and fortunately it was so fast on his head, that he drew him up by it to the top of the water. With very little signs of life he was taken ashore, and proper remedies were applied for his recovery.

Thus, under Providence, Mr. North may unquestionably be considered as having been the means of saving the life of Mr. Bond, by having kept him so long from sinking, that timely assis-

ance was just able to reach him—but nothing more—one quarter of a minute later must have proved fatal.

Mr. North was assisted by another canoe, though he could have done very well without it. During the whole time he was in the water, he was incumbered with half-boots, which every swimmer can easily conceive were a great inconvenience. He was without any coat, having taken it off before he went to the Pier, and lost it when the canoe overset. The time they were in the water was about ten minutes, certainly not exceeding fifteen.

Mr. Craig considers that what he and the others in the canoe did, was nothing more than their duty, and being attended with no risk, merits no reward. This family of Bond's, I believe, never lived in Boston, but moved from Groton to this place. Mr. Bond has a brother (Amos Bond, Esq.) at Watertown.

In addition to the foregoing statement, I take the liberty to mention another similar circumstance in favour of this young gentleman, which took place about three years ago. About the middle of August, 1798, on Sunday, during divine service, a loud cry from children was heard in the meeting-house, which stands but a few rods from the bank of the river, that William Pitt (a lad then about eight years old) had fallen out of a canoe, and was drowning. The people immediately ran out of the meeting-house, and while some of those who first got to the shore were endeavouring to get off a boat to go to the boy, who directly after sunk, Mr. North ran by them, and with all his clothes on, leaped as far as he could into the river, swam about two rods, and dove and brought the boy up, and kept him until the boat came and received him. He was soon recovered and is now living.

If I can be of further service to you as members of the Humane Society, or as individuals, I beg you to command me.

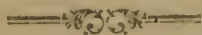
I am, Gentlemen, with the greatest respect,

your very humble servant,

S. HOWARD.

Rev. Doctor PARKER. }
AARON DEXTER, Esq. }

UPON which the Trustees Voted, That a Gold Medal be presented to Mr. Joseph North, jun. and a Silver Medal to Mr. Elias Craig and Mr. Savage Bolton each, for their signal exertions in saving the life of Mr. Bond. Said Medals were accordingly procured by the Treasurer, with inscriptions expressive of the facts, and transmitted to Major Howard, who presented them to the above gentlemen.



AT a Meeting of the Trustees, November 2, 1801, The Corresponding Secretary communicated a short letter from Dr. Hawes, Treasurer of the Royal Humane Society, London, with some of the reports and sermons preached before that society in April, 1801, by Reverend William Langford, D. D. Also the following construction of a life-boat, used at South Shields for the preservation of seamen in distress.

Construction of the Life-Boat at South Shields.

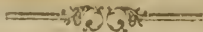
SIR,

IN reply to yours of the 14th, respecting the LIFE-BOAT at South Shields, which we have found to answer beyond the most extended idea we entertained of the plan on which she was built; and, to our great satisfaction, she has been the means of *saving the lives of many of our fellow creatures*, who could by no other means have been preserved. The boat is 30 feet by 10, in form much resembling a common Greenland boat, except the bottom, which is much flatter. She is lined with cork inside and outside of the gunwale, about two feet in breadth, and the seats underneath are filled with cork also.

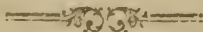
She is rowed by *ten men*, double banked, and steered by two men with oars, one at each end, both ends being alike. *Long poles* are provided for the men, to keep the boat from being drove

broad side to the shore either in going off or landing. About six inches from the lower poles it increases in diameter so as to form a *flat surface* against the sand, otherwise they would sink into the sand, and be of no use. The *weight of the cork* used in the boat is about seven cwt. She draws very little water, and, when full, *is able to carry twenty people*. The boat is able to contend against the *most tremendous sea*, and broken water, and never, in any one instance, has she failed in bringing the crew in distress into safety. The men have no dread in going off with her in the highest seas, and broken water. CORK JACKETS were provided for them; but their confidence in the boat is so great, they will not use them.

She has surprized every nautical man that has seen her contend with the waves. Any further description I can give will not be equal to a *view of the model* of her upon a scale now with the Duke of Northumberland.



A LETTER from Benjamin Say Esq., President of the Humane Society at Philadelphia, admitting a late President of this Society as an honorary member was communicated to the Trustees January 4, 1802. Whereupon it was voted, that the Corresponding Secretary answer the Letter from the President of the Humane Society at Philadelphia, inform him of the death of the late President of this Society, send him the Publications of this Society, and request his correspondence.



THE following Letter, with the Communication enclosed, from the Rev. Tim. Alden Junr. of Portsmouth N. H. was laid before the Trustees, June 7, 1802, and by them referred to the Society, at their Semiannual Meeting, June 8, 1802.

The Rev. Dr. PARKER, Boston.

PORTSMOUTH, N. H. MAY 19, 1852.

REVEREND SIR,

I HAVE taken the liberty to transmit you the enclosed, as worthy of a deposit in the archives of the Humane Society at Boston. The writer of the narrative is the second daughter of Doctor John Jackson of this town and is a pupil, of promising talents, in the Young Ladies' Academy, which I have the honour to teach.

I am, Reverend Sir, with due respect,

your humble servant,

TIMOTHY ALDEN, jun.

REVEREND SIR,

ACCORDING to your request, I have endeavoured to form a concise narrative of the remarkable preservation of my brother, when exposed to the most imminent danger of being drowned. I am sorry that it is not in my power to give a better account of such a remarkable interposition. Such as it is, I modestly offer it for your acceptance, and I doubt not a renewed instance of your candour, as it has so often been exercised towards the juvenile productions of your respectful pupil,

ELIZABETH JACKSON.

NARRATIVE.

ON the seventh of last September, at three o'clock in the afternoon, my brother Daniel, who is seven years of age, went down on Mr. Jacob Sheafe's wharf, in order to divert himself with some of his companions. Having been with them about two hours, he was so unfortunate as to fall from the wharf into the water. None were present to witness the melancholy scene but his playmates, who were unable to afford him any assistance. If it had not been for Mr. James Jones the third, he must certainly have

drowned. It was nearly low water, but the current was very rapid, and my poor brother was immediately drawn away by the tide a number of feet. The alarm was given that some person had fallen into the water and was drowning. Some men, who were not far off, ran to the place, but none of them durst jump into the water. Directly upon this, Mr. Jones, who was at work on Captain Manning's brig, which lay at the pier, looked around, and discovered my dear brother, just coming up, at the top of the water, and, without stopping to consider the danger, sprung from the vessel into the water, and seized him by the hair of his head, as he was about to sink the third time. He then swam with him to the wharf, and put his hand over one of the logs forming a part of the wharf, but it was so slippery, and the current so strong, that they were both swept away for a considerable distance, and were separated; but, through the kindness of Providence, the humane Mr. Jones was enabled to get hold of my brother once more, and to keep him from sinking till further relief was afforded. Thus a beloved brother was restored to the arms of his parents and friends.

Oh, how shocking must it have been, to have witnessed such a distressing scene! What tongue can describe it! I am sensible that I cannot do justice to the subject. Although it be certain that it is not in my power to repay the kindness of Mr. Jones, yet, with the utmost pleasure shall I reflect and ever recall to mind the hour, when this benevolent man, at the risque of his own life, was the mean of saving a much loved brother from a watery grave. May prosperity and happiness attend him in every situation in life, and may he have the pleasing reflection, that,

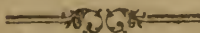
“To virtuous deeds

A sure although a late reward succeeds.”

The Rev. TIMOTHY ALDEN, jun.

AT a Semi-annual Meeting of the Humane Society of Massachusetts, June 8, 1802, VOTED, That a Gold Medal, with an inscription expressive of the facts, be presented to Mr. James Jones

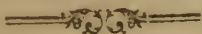
3d. of Portsmouth, N. H. for his signal exertion in saving the life of Master Daniel Jackson, as communicated in the foregoing Narrative, and that the Rev. Dr. Parker and Dr. Dexter be a Committee to procure and present the same.



A COMMITTEE of the Trustees was appointed, May 3d, 1802, to make out a schedule of the Huts that have been erected by the Society for the preservation of shipwrecked seamen, their situation, and the expenses that have attended; which Committee made a Report, of which the following is an abstract, and ordered by the Trustees to be published.

Huts erected by the Humane Society.

		<i>D. c.</i>
1787.	One on Scituate Beach,	} at 40 dolls. 120 each,
January.	One on the outer Beach of Nantasket,	
	One on west end of Lovell's Island,	
1789.	One on Calf's Island,	} 95
December.	One on east end of Lovell's Island,	
	One on other end of Nantasket Beach,	
1792.	One on Stout's Creek on Cape Cod,	42 50
1793.	One on Brush Island, Cohasset,	
1794.	Two on the Island of Nantucket,	72
1799.	One on Pettick's Island,	50
1802.	The Repairs on said Huts, and supplying them with necessary articles, has cost the Society	160 18



THE Trustees of the Humane Society, having, in their private capacity, been informed of several instances of persons who had incurred apparent death by drowning or otherwise, and been fortunately recovered by the means recommended by the

Society, and no communication made thereof; and convinced that publishing the circumstances of such incidents would be attended with beneficial effects, hereby request the citizens of this commonwealth, and particularly the gentlemen in the medical line, to communicate to the Corresponding Secretary, all the instances that have, or shall come to their knowledge, of reanimation, and the means whereby those happy events are accomplished, with such other particulars of the time respiration was suspended, &c. as they shall think of importance to notice: As it is by comparing the success of different means and operations, that this important art can be brought to perfection. The Trustees are also desirous of extending the rewards promised by the Society for signal exertions throughout the commonwealth, and for this reason they request information of all the attempts of reanimation, even if they prove unsuccessful.

N. B. The Trustees request the same favour from the citizens of the neighbouring states.

An Extract from the Minutes of said Trustees,

JOHN AVERY, *Rec'g Sec'ry.*

At a Meeting of the HUMANE SOCIETY, June 11th, 1799.

THE TRUSTEES of the HUMANE SOCIETY, having had frequent applications for reward in cases, for which the Constitution of said Society does not authorize their granting a Premium, wish their fellow-citizens to be informed, with a view to prevent fruitless applications, that the services for which said Society holds out a reward are,

FIRST. That when any accident shall happen, producing apparent death, the person who shall first discover and endeavour to recover the subject, shall be entitled to a reward; but in no case are the allowed Trustees to exceed ten dollars.

SECONDLY. The person who shall receive into his or her house, the body of one apparently dead, with a view that means may be

used for its recovery, is also entitled to such a compensation as the Trustees shall judge adequate.

THIRDLY. That any person who shall, by any signal exertion, save another from death, is entitled to a reward in proportion to the risque and danger incurred.

By a signal exertion the Trustees conceive must be understood something more than barely reaching out the hand, or throwing a rope from a wharf, or a boat, or even wading into the water to half a man's depth, and rescuing a man from drowning; for the principles of common humanity and sympathy are sufficient motives for such exertions; but it must include the endangering his own life, or incurring some damage, by impairing the health, or injuring his apparel or other property. In any or all these cases the Trustees are ready to grant adequate reward, when properly authenticated, but do not think themselves warranted by the regulations of the Society to bestow them in other cases.

An Extract from the Minutes of said Society,

JOHN AVERY, Rec'g. Sec'y.

Premiums adjudged by Trustees.

		Doll's.	Cts.
1801.	To John Russell for saving the life of Mr.		
June.	Tuckerman the Constable when thrown out of a boat, - - - -	5	
July.	To William Hollis, for saving a child of Thomas Fessenden, - - - -	3	
Sept.	To Joseph Tucker, for saving a child of James Dunbar, - - - -	3	
	To David Spalk, for saving a child of Mr. Dodge, which had fallen between a vessel and Sear's Wharf, - - - -	4	
	To Ezra Trull and John Trask, for saving the life of Sophy Hemenway, who fell from Wentworth's Wharf, 4 dollars each, -	8	
Nov.	To John O'Neil, for saving the life of Mary Winship, - - - -	2	

	To Mr. Joseph North, for his very signal exertions in preserving the life of Mr. Amos Bond, when drowning in a very rapid current near Kennebeck Bridge, in April, 1801; and also the life of William Pitt, near the same place, in August 1798, a Gold Medal, cost	-	20	44
	To Elias Craig and Savage Bolton, for assistance afforded by them in saving Mr. Bond's life, a Silver Medal each,	-	9	
1802.	To Bezaleel Kingman, for saving a boy at West			
Feb.	Bolton Bridge,	-	2	
April.	To Joseph Lee, for saving the life of John Ackley, at Union Wharf,	-	8	
	To Samuel Henry and Samuel Howard, for assistance in the above case, 3 dollars each, (one not paid)	-	3	
May.	To John Glynn, &c. for saving the life of John Steward,	-	3	
June.	To William Smeshurst and Thomas Clone, for saving the lives of three men, belonging to Fort Independence, who were overset from a boat near Foster's Wharf, 2 dollars each,		4	
	To Caleb Munrow and Josiah Haskel, for saving the life of Thomas Lee, another of said men, 2 dollars each,	-	4	
	To James Jones 3d, for saving the life of a child of Dr. John Jackson, at Portsmouth, N. H. a Gold Medal,	-	14	67
			<hr/>	
			93	11

State of Treasurer's Accounts for Year past.

	Dolls.	Cts.
Balance due to Treasurer per last Account,	11	29
Expenses of Semi-annual Meetings, Organist, &c.	10	

John and Thomas Fleet's Account printing Semi-an-

nual Discourse,	-	-	-	50	11
Stock purchased,	-	-	-	362	60
Repairing Huts,	-	-	-	31	31
Postage,	-	-	-		17
Premiums adjudged,	-	-	-	93	11
Mr. Kuhn's Salary,	-	-	-	30	
Balance due to the Society,	-	-	-	95	54
				<hr/>	
				684	15

Contra Cr.

By Interest on 6, 3, and 8 per Cent Stock of United

States,	-	-	-	188	65
Ditto on Massachusetts State Notes,	-	-	-	105	68
Dividend at Union Bank,	-	-	-	105	12
Legacy left by Alexander Hodgdon, Esq.	-	-	-	30	
A Premium returned by Mr. Zebina Stebbings,	-	-	-	5	
Subscriptions for the year past,	-	-	-	237	68
Dividends on West Boston Bridge,	-	-	-	12	
				<hr/>	
				684	13

Property in the Hands of the Treasurer belonging to the Society.

United States 6 per Cent Stock, (nominal sum)	1442	17
Ditto 3 per Cent,	708	83
Ditto 8 per Cent,	800	
Massachusetts Notes, 5 per Cent,	2113	71
Union Bank Stock,	1268	
West Boston Bridge, 2 shares, cost	417	17
Malden Bridge,, 1 share, cost	140	
Accumulating Fund on above Share United States		
deferred Stock,	334	58
Massachusetts 5 per Cent Notes,	81	78

WE the Subscribers, appointed a Committee by the Humane Society of Massachusetts, at their meeting in December, 1801, to examine the Accounts of the Rev. Dr. Parker, Treasurer of said

Society, find all the articles in the above account vouched, the same right cast, and a balance of 95 Dolls. 54 Cts. in the Treasurer's hands, due to the Society, and the evidences of the property enumerated above.

THOMAS DAWES, }
JOHN HANCOCK, } Committee.

BOSTON, *June*, 1802.

OFFICERS of the HUMANE SOCIETY,
chosen in *December*, 1801.

John Warren, M. D. President,
Rev. Simeon Howard, D. D. first Vice President,
Rev. John Lathrop, D. D. second Vice President,
Rev. Samuel Parker, D. D. Treasurer,
Aaron Dexter, M. D. Corresponding Secretary,
John Avery, Esq. Recording Secretary,

Rev. Peter Thacher, D. D.	} Trustees.
Nathaniel Baleh, Esq.	
Jeremiah Allen, Esq.	
William Spooner, M. D.	
Samuel Parkman, Esq.	
James Scott, Esq.	

MEMBERS *deceased since the last Publication.*

Rev. Noah Atwater, *Westfield*.
Moses Bullen Esq, *Medfield*.
Mr. Joseph Cunha,
Mr. Joseph Greene,
Mrs. Abigail Howard,
Hon. John Lowell Esq. *Roxbury*.
Hon. Samuel Lyman Esq. *Springfield*.
Hon. George R. Minot Esq.
Hon. Samuel Phillips Esq. *Andover*.
Mr. Sampson Reed.
Mr. Andrew Spooner.
John Sweetzer Esq.

CATALOGUE of the MEMBERS of the HUMANE SOCIETY.
Names and places of abode.

EXCELLENCY JOHN ADAMS, Esq.
late President of the United States, Quincy,

Isaac John Allen, Esq.

Mr. William Allen,

Mr. Thomas Amory,

Mr. Thomas C. Amory,

Mr. Jonathan Amory, jun.

John Andrews, Esq.

Mr. James Andrews,

Mr. John Trecothick Apthorp,

John Avery, Esq.

Mr. John Avery, jun.

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Nathaniel Welch, Esq.

Leeman Baldwin, Esq. *Woburn,*

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Rev. Thomas Baldwin,

Mr. John Ballard,

Rev. Thomas Barnard, D. D. *Salem,*

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Mr. George Bartlett, *Charlestown,*

Dr. Thomas Bartlett,

Dr. Zaccheus Bartlett, *Plymouth,*

Major William Bell,

Mr. Shubael Bell,

Mr. Asahel Biglow,

Mr. Edward Blake,

Mr. George Blanchard,

Samuel Blodget, Esq. *Haverhill,*

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 Mr. Nathan Bond,
 Mr. Kirk Boot,
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 Hon. James Bowdoin, Esq.
 Hon. Jonathan Bowman, Esq. *Dresden*.
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 Mr. John Brewer, No. 4. *Passamaquoddy*.
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 Martin Brimmer, Esq. *Roxbury*,
 Henry Bromfield, Esq. *Harvard*,
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 Dr. Samuel Brown,
 Mr. Jeremiah Bumstead, jun.

 Hon. George Cabot, Esq. *Brookline*,
 Major William Calder, *Charlestown*, 2.
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 Mr. Benjamin Callender,
 Samuel Cary, Esq. *Chelsea*,
 Mr. Andrew Cazneau,
 Mr. Gardner L. Chandler,
 Benjamin Clarke, Esq.
 Mr. William Cleland,
 John Codman, Esq.
 Mr. Joseph Coolidge,
 Hon. Peleg Coffin, Esq.
 Samuel Cooper, Esq.
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Mr. Thomas Curtis,
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 Dr. Conrad Hayward,
 Mr. Samuel Hayward, *Plymouth*,
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 Stephen Houghton, Esq.
 Henry Hovey, Esq.
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 William Russell, Esq. *Middletown, (Connecticut.)*
 Right Hon. Earl of Stamford, *London*,
 Hon. James Sheafe, Esq. *Portsmouth*,
 Hon. Samuel Tenny, Esq. *Exeter*.

APPARENT DEATH—LIFE RESTORED.

" He sinks !—is lost !—none near to give relief !
 " And hark—that scream !—a frantic mother's grief !
 " Fix'd on the flood that would her babe destroy,
 " Her eager eye deep searches for her boy ;
 " He's found !—but ah ! when anxious drawn to shore,
 " The mother breathless !—views her child—no more !
 " But, Heav'n-instructed—every effort's made
 " Which Wisdom plann'd, and Study has supply'd,
 " Eager to save, each panting bosom burns ;
 " Life half-departed, 's beckon'd, and returns :
 " When rapturous bliss the eager mind receives,
 " When parental Ecstasy exclaims—*He lives !*"

RESUSCITATIVE PROCESS.

RESCITE THOU DORMIT—DO QUICKLY.

OCCIDIT, QUI NON SERVAT.

CONVEY the person to the nearest convenient house, with his head raised : Strip and dry him as quick as possible ; clean the mouth and nostrils from froth and mud. If a child, let him be placed between two persons naked, in a hot bed. If an adult, lay him on a hot blanket or bed, and, in cold weather, near a fire—In warm weather, the air should be freely admitted into the room. The body is next to be gently rubbed with warm woollen cloths sprinkled with spirits, if at hand, otherwise dry : A heated warming-pan may be now lightly moved over the back, properly covered with a blanket—and the body, if of a child, is to be gently shook every few minutes : Whilst these means are using, one or two assistants are to be employed in blowing up tobacco-smoke into the fundament, with the instrument provided for the purpose, or a tobacco-pipe, if that cannot be had—the bowl filled with tobacco and properly lighted, being covered with a handkerchief, or

piece of linen, so as to defend the mouth of the assistant in blowing: Bathe the breast with hot rum, and persist in the use of these means for several hours. If no signs of life should then appear, let the body be kept warm several hours longer, with hot bricks, or vessels of hot water, applied to the palms of the hands, and soles of the feet, and this for a longer or shorter time, as the circumstances of the case may dictate.

The too customary method of rolling on a barrel, suspending by the feet, and every other violent mode of agitation, particularly in removing the body from the water, should be most carefully avoided.

To restore breathing—Introduce the pipe of a bellows, (when no apparatus is at hand) into one of the nostrils, the other and mouth being closed, *inflate the lungs*, till the breast is a little raised; the mouth and nostrils must then be let free.

Repeat this process till life appear.

Electricity is recommended to be early employed by judicious Practitioners.

INTENSE COLD.

Rub the body with snow, ice or cold water; restore warmth by slow degrees, and after some time, if there be no appearance of life, the plans of resuscitation for the drowned must be employed.

SUSPENSION BY THE CORD.

A few ounces of blood may be taken from the jugular vein, cupping-glasses applied to the head and neck, and bleeding at the temples. The other methods of treatment, the same as recommended for the apparently drowned.

INTOXICATION.

The body to be laid on a bed, with the head a little raised; the neckcloth, &c. removed.

Obtain immediate MEDICAL ASSISTANCE, as the modes of treatment must be varied according to the circumstances of the patient.

SUFFOCATION BY ASSAULTS OF VIOLENCE.

Cold water to be repeatedly thrown upon the face, &c. drying the body at intervals. If the body is cold employ *friction*: and the plans for restoring the drowned, in all cases of apparent death.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

RESUSCITATION.

On the first or first indication of retrocession, the prudent Physician will resign the office of *Art to Nature*. It is evident that *Art* has contributed her share by assisting Nature to struggle with the immediate cause of oppression.

It is to this judicious co-operation of *Nature* with *Art* that gives to the latter all its efficacy.

THE SIGNS OF RETURNING LIFE.

A tea-spoonful of warm water may be given; and, if swallowed, be renewed, warm wine, or diluted brandy. The patients must be kept warm bed and if disposed to sleep, they will generally awake fully restored.

The plans above recommended are to be used three or four times.

It is a foolish and vulgar opinion to suppose persons irrecoverable, because life has not soon made its appearance.

—WELDING NEVER TO BE EMPLOYED, UNLESS BY THE DIRECTION OF A PHYSICIAN.

REFLECTIONS ON REANIMATION.

Suppose yourselves but for a few moments in your evening walk of rural retirement, imagine your contemplations interrupted by an uncommon appearance,—Behold a young man dragged to the shore without life or motion.

An hour has passed since the object of their attention had left his circle of domestic happiness.—And now his body swollen, his eyes sunk, and his face livid. Without the least signs of life, they convey him in *helpless dependence* to his own home.

Fear, despondency, and horror, are spread over the afflicted family. On one side behold the *aged mother* lamenting her lost child; on the other stands mute the *distracted wife*, afraid to look up to the horrid spectacle; whilst the *innocent little ones* look with amazement and wonder at the silence of him who always so kindly greeted them on his return.

Those who would most gladly take upon them the task of restoration are now unable to perform it; and all the precious moments which should have been employed in the means of his recovery, are lost in fruitless lamentation. They hang over him in silent anguish, take their last farewell in the agonies of despair, and consign him to the grave.

And now observe the change. It chances that one of *the sons of humanity* (which is but another name for this institution) is passing by.—As soon as he hears of the event, he flies, like the *Good Samaritan*, to the chamber of sorrow; he stops those who had assembled but to gaze at and desert him, calls on them to assist him, and assiduously applies with zeal proper means to resuscitate. *Death*, unwilling to relinquish his devoted prey, struggles powerfully to detain it; seems to smile, as it were, at the ineffectual labour; till at length subdued by *fortitude* and *perseverance* he gives up the contest.

“A ray of hope breaks in upon the gloom, and lights up every countenance.—Behold, at last, again he moves, he breathes, he lives.—What follows is *not* within the power of language to describe: *imagination* alone can suggest to true *Philanthropists* the delightful scene of wonder and astonishment, of mutual joy, transport, and felicity.”

N. B. The above and three preceding Pages are, with some alterations, taken from the Annual Report of the *British Humane Society*, in London, for 1799.



